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Interview with Walter P. Halligan 3111157

Date: June 13, 1978

Interviewed by: Mickey Goldenwith and Betty Wolf

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A copy of the ~~original~~ letter was given to Mr. Halligan who read it and indicated that he understood the contents. Mr. Halligan was given a copy of LIA # 435-173-A which consists of a cover letter dated 11/12/63 from Robert M. Hampell to the Chiefs of SR and WE and to the Chief of Station in Paris forwarding a memo dated 11/25/63 which was written by Thomas B. Casasin to Walter P. Halligan concerning Casasin's prior interest in Lee Harvey Oswald. This document served as the basis for our questioning.

Halligan stated that in 1963 he served as Chief of the Soviet Section of the Paris station under diplomatic cover. He explained that Casasin was also an officer in the Paris station but he served under non-official cover and worked out of his home using cut-outs to make contact with others in the Paris station. Due to the nature of this arrangement, Casasin frequently wrote informal memos such as the one in #435-173-A which were then passed along to the station. These memos would then be forwarded to Headquarters, generally by Halligan. In this particular instance, Hampell, who served under Halligan, forwarded the letter to Headquarters. ~~Since~~ Halligan was in the hospital at the time.

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Halligan explained the following portions of Casasin's memo:

- "REDWOOD" represents the Soviet Division.
- The "6 Branch" was the Operational Support and Research Branch for the Soviet Division. Its main function was the collection of

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information. Casarin was Chief of the 6 Branch until his transfer to Paris.

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- KUTUMT was the cryptonym for the Office of Operations which is currently known as the DED. If the CIA wished to contact a returning defector, it would have made contact through this office. However, Hattigan stated that it probably was not standard operating procedure to interview returning defectors due to a variety of factors such as a lack of proper follow-up measures or the fact that these cases would have fallen into the jurisdiction of the FBI.

- ODAED was the cryptonym for the State Department. Hattigan explained that it was not unusual that Casarin would have seen a State Department despatch on Oswald as it would have been routine to receive most of State Department memos.

- Casarin's recollection of having discussed the Oswald case in Summer 1960 as stated in the memo, must have been a mistake. Instead, he probably ^{meant the summer} should have ~~been~~ of 1962.

- BI refers to biographic information.

- KROVER was a cryptonym for a cover which was probably a business firm. KUOORE was the cryptonym for the DDP. Hattigan explained ^{in paragraph 3} that he was phasing out of the DDP ^{did not mean} ~~reference~~ altogether. Instead, his reference to phasing out of the DDP referred only to his Headquarters assignment within DDP.

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- REDCEAN was the legal Traveller program, whereby they (the DDP) gave ^{to} certain ^{persons} travelling to Soviet bloc countries the usual requirements which they reported back to the Agency upon their return.

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in Japan from 1951-1955 and left in 1955. He mentioned that he had been
and been used in any capacity. He mentioned that he had been
Agency, the world there in a position to receive if desired
any time. He felt that because of the arrangements with the
agency to the effect that Oswald had been used by the CIA at
of the same year. Hatoyama stated that he had never heard any
in June, 1962 and that Oswald probably arrived here in September
Hatoyama recalled that he arrived in Paris for his assignment

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the point.
in this, not did he remember ever speaking to Oswald about
with respect to the reference. He could think of no explanation
this was merely a typographical error, the original copy
two other references to Oswald which make it unlikely that
story" instead. When it was pointed out that the sentence contained
was a typographical error which should have been the "Oswald
in the last line of the memo. He just stated that it must have
- Hatoyama was surprised as to the reference to the "Honey story"
to leave during that time period.

have the Soviet Union as not many Soviet wives were permitted
stated that it was unusual for Oswald to be allowed to
the couple was eventually divorced as the memo refers. Hatoyama
months later. Hatoyama did not believe this to be a case where

in the summer of 1962 and the wife was permitted to join him
with an interval guide when he married. He came out of the USSR
the legal frontier between the USSR when he left in 1955.

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the records are not a good record of the USSR period up to 1955 for

1955 to 1958 or 1959.

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From 1/58 until 4/61 Hattigan worked in SR/9 which was Special Operations within the Soviet Union. SR/9 was composed of 6 persons at this time. He explained that SR/10 was responsible for the Legal Travellers program which utilized U.S. citizens and that SR/2, 3, 4 & 5 ~~was~~ ^{were} responsible for running foreigners in that program. Since Hattigan was generally apprised ^{by SR/10} of those persons who were travelling to the USSR under the program, he expressed the belief that it was almost impossible for them not to have known if Oswald had had some involvement with the Agency in this capacity.

Hattigan advised that SR/9 was responsible for maintaining its own records which they kept in the same manner as DDO files. If someone needed to know if a particular person was being used, they would be able to check it through the files. However, Agency association would not be directly reflected in a 201 file. Instead, there would be a paper in the file ^{referring} to another file in which operational information would be stored. Hattigan explained that a 201 file documents the person but not what the person is doing. A 201 file ~~would~~ ^{might} contain a PRQ, Part I which is entirely biographical information, a security check and newspaper clipping concerning the individual. A case file, on the other hand, reflects the operational information. A case file would have a two part number, such as 74-6, where the first number reflects the country or area of interest and the second number refers to the specific operation. In regard to the accessibility of case files, Hattigan stated that the area of primary interest is reflected on a 201 file opening sheet and that ~~SR/9~~ ^{SR/10} go to that branch to seek operational information.

When asked about the significance of CI/516 opening Oswald's 201

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file. Hattigan ~~reported that~~ ~~he couldn't really say~~ as he does not know what CE/SEC was doing at the time.

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Hattigan was asked whether it was possible to purge an individual's file of any operational information by removing any ^{such} reference cards in the 201 file and then removing the pertinent information from the case file. Hattigan stated that he does not know of this type of thing occurring in his experience. He stated that file maintenance was essential for the protection of the operator and stressed that SR/9 in particular was meticulous in its file maintenance.

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